

05/05/2005

**Cetacean Biopsy Collection Protocol for Shark Gillnet Observers
NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory**

Important Considerations

1. It is most important that cross-contamination of samples be avoided. Handle the dart portion (biopsy tip) wearing gloves.
 2. For successful biopsies, the tip should be immediately removed and stored in vials containing DMSO.
 3. The biopsy tips will corrode and fuse with the adapters in less than 12 hours. Remove the tips when not observing a haul.
 4. Please break down pole spear (including the adapter) and apply WD40 to the connectors between trips.
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Processing

1. Processing should begin as soon as possible after obtaining the biopsy. Wear gloves and remove the biopsy tip.
 2. Place each biopsy tip in a separate tube of preservative solution. This solution contains saturated sodium chloride (NaCl) and 20% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Avoid contact with the skin. DMSO is not toxic; however, it can increase the permeability of the skins to toxins. If contact with the skin occurs, rinse with water.
 3. Make sure the tip is completely submerged in the liquid.
 4. Place labeled vials with the date, species, and your initials. Draw a line across the lid of the vial to indicate that it has been used.
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Biopsy Kits Contents

1. 6 ft pole with spear and sling
 2. Biopsy tips
 3. Adapters
 4. Gloves
 5. DMSO vials
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Please send all samples to John Carlson NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory 3500
Delwood Beach Road Panama City, FL 32408 Phone: 850-324-6541 ext.221